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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE:

INFO. 6-8 June 1947

SUBJECT SED Social Welfare School
at Berlin-Fichtenau

DIST. 20
August 1947

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letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.

PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN

1. The SED in Berlin is currently working to penetrate the social welfare system of that city. Efforts are being made to place loyal SED adherents in minor but strategic positions in the Sozialhilfe Gross-Berlin (Greater Berlin Social Aid Administration), a non-partisan organization sponsored by the Berlin Magistrat. The plan is to further the influence of the SED through "deeds, not words"—to make social workers out of a number of SED organizers and to have them popularize the party by working quietly as welfare agents among the needy elements of the Berlin population.
2. To implement this project a three-day course of lectures was organized for the weekend of 6-8 June 1947 and an impromptu school was set up at Berlin-Fichtenau to instruct some twenty-six party workers in social welfare techniques. Each of the twenty Bezirke of Berlin was represented by at least one student. Most of the trainees were party functionaries, generally Kreis secretaries in charge of labor and social welfare matters. Rations for the school dining room were obtained from the Russians through the Landesverband.
3. One Martha Wengels was in charge of the Fichtenau school. The following instructors lectured on the following subjects:

Erich Auer:	"The Administrative Aspects of Social Work"
Adolf Deter:	"Our Socio-political Tasks" and "How the Kreis Section for Labor and Social Welfare Matters Works"
Georg Dunninghaus:	"The Sozialhilfe Gross-Berlin"
Hugo Graf:	"SED Public Health Principles"
Jenny Matern:	"Social Work and the Job of the SED"
Kurt Ziegenhagen:	"Work among Returned Prisoners and Displaced Germans (Heimkehrern)" and "The Principles of our Work in the Odr (Opfer der Faschismus) and the VVN (Vereinigung Verfolgender des Naziregimes)"
4. Instructor Matern is Vice President of the SED's Administration for Labor and Social Welfare Matters for the entire Russian Zone. She sat out the years of the Nazi era in the USSR, attending several political schools there.
5. Hugo Graf is a member of the SED Central Secretariat, a veteran of the concentration camps, lost a leg in World War I. He spent seven years in England, returned shortly after the end of World War II.
6. Adolf Deter is chief of the Berlin SED Landesverband's Section for Labor and Social Welfare Matters. Before 1933 he served as a KPD deputy in the Prussian Landtag.
7. Kurt Ziegenhagen is chief of the section for returned PWs in the Berlin SED Landesverband (Abteilung für Heimkehrerfragen). He served in Africa in the Wehrmacht's famous penal unit, Regiment 999, and was captured by the Americans, spending his years of captivity in a camp for anti-fascist prisoners in the United States.